

Appl. No. 09/847,935
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2005

Remarks

Introduction

The above-identified application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 11, 2005, which included a final rejection of the pending claims. This Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination and an Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 36, 37, 39-41, 43-50, 53-66, 68, and 70-86 were pending.

Claims 37, 39-41, 43, 44, 47-50, 53-58, 60-66, 68, 70, 71, and 72-77 have been indicated to include allowable subject matter.

By way of this response, claims 36, 59, and 78 have been amended, and claim 37 has been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuing applications in the future at applicant's discretion. Claims 36, 59, and 78 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 37. Claims 36, 39-41, 43-50, 53-66, 68, and 70-86 are currently pending.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 59, 78-80, and 83-86 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Garst (U.S. 6,294,563). Claims 78-86 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Gil et al. (U.S. 6,294,553; hereinafter Gil).

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As indicated above, independent claims 59 and 78 have been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 37. Applicant submits the rejections are moot in view of the amendments to the claims.

In view of the above, applicant submits that the present claims, in particular claims 59 and 78-86, are not anticipated by Garst or Gil under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 36, 45, and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over Shashoua et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,795,909; hereinafter Shashoua).

As indicated above, independent claim 36 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 37. Applicant submits the rejections are moot in view of the amendments to the claims.

In view of the above, applicant submits that the present claims, in particular claims 36, 45, and 46, are unobvious from and patentable over Shashoua under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In addition, each of the present dependent claims is separately patentable over the prior art. For example, none of the prior art disclose, teach, or even suggest the present compositions including the additional feature or features recited in any of the present dependent claims. Therefore, applicant submits that each of the present claims is separately patentable over the prior art.

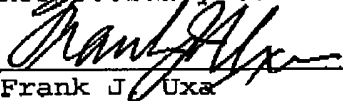
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Conclusion

In conclusion, applicant has shown that the present claims are not anticipated by and are unobvious from and patentable over the prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Therefore, applicant submits that the present claims, that is claims 36, 37, 39-41, 43-50, 53-66, 68, and 70-86 are allowable, and respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the above-identified application to issuance at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

Date: 2/9/05

Respectfully submitted,


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